



United States Department
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National Agricultural
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: July 22, 2007
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Rains Hamper Initial Grain Harvest Good For Later Maturing Crops and Pasture Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.4. The winter wheat harvest has begun and preliminary reports indicated an average yield. Intermittent rain in Benton, Asotin and Whitman Counties slowed their start up. The initial third cutting of alfalfa was degraded by rain as some producers continued work on second crop. Pulse harvest had begun in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties with average yields being reported. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Grand fir and Norway spruce.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple thinning continued and Bartlett pear producers were weeding, mowing and moving bins into orchards. Fruit was sizing up nicely and Red Delicious apples were coloring up. The cool, moist weather was a concern for some growers worried about mold and getting berries picked. Cherry harvest was winding down as greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent fruit quality resulting in good sales. On the west side, sweet corn growers were able to stop irrigating due to the unseasonable, heavy rainfall. Pumpkins were in bloom.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 15% poor, 19% fair, 62% good and 1% excellent. On the west side of the Cascades, rains were generally welcomed and went a long way to revitalize pastures. On the east side, Pend Oreille County reported that pasture was 1/3 of normal and herd liquidations were anticipated. Shellfish growers continued late seed planting and harvesting operations for triploid oysters.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.4
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	23	22	45	10
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	37	48	0
Subsoil	24	35	41	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	31	61	0
Irrigation Water	2	4	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	8	90	0
Hay & Roughage	4	16	79	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	99	100	100
Spring Wheat Harvested	3	NA	NA	3
Winter Wheat Harvested	19	6	17	13
Barley Harvested	10	NA	NA	3
Potatoes Harvested	10	5	13	14
Corn Silked	46	45	51	53
Corn Dough	4	3	10	3
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	93	80	95	96
Dry Peas Harvested	23	17	34	20
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	74	72	76	82

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	11	33	47	6
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	9	63	28
Spring Wheat Dryland	12	21	43	23	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	19	69	8
Barley Dryland	7	14	42	36	1
Barley Irrigated	0	5	27	61	7
Potatoes	0	1	15	84	0
Corn	0	0	19	59	22
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	31	60	8

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Temperatures were cooler after a hot spell. Irrigation water was still in good supply. The rain caused some hay damage along with the barley crop.

Clark: The area had a cloudy, mild weekend.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers were able to stop irrigating due to the unseasonably heavy rainfall which fell during the latter part of the week. Enough rain has fallen to thoroughly wet the soil profile through the entire rooting depth of forages in pastures and hayfields. Cannery pea growers expressed some concern that the wet conditions combined with mild temperatures were nearly ideal conditions for mildew and other fungus diseases. No serious disease problems have been reported at this time however. Christmas tree growers started top-working and shearing Noble fir. U-Pick blueberry growers reported disappointing sales due to the wet conditions. Spring flowering bulb growers continued digging and sorting daffodils and tulips. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent fruit quality resulting in excellent sales. Home gardeners were kept busy harvesting raspberries and early season vegetables.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Significant rain fell in late July. Half of the farmers were thrilled and the other half have hay down

Jefferson: The area had less than 5 inches of rain in 2007 and received 2 inches in one day. It had been very dry. The soils were very wet during the spring resulting in a very late growing season and now it is very wet. Strawberries lasted less than a week and there was very little raspberry season this year. First hay mowing happened before the rain, and fall garlic was harvested before the rain.

Kitsap: What a difference a few days makes, a strong Pacific storm front hit midweek and we received 3.2 inches of rain since Wednesday, a highly unusual event for this time of year. For us, this rain was positive since our pastures were starting to go dormant. Fields were spot fertilized as possible during the rain and many wished they had mowed more fields before the storm, but it looked like this will really start the grass growing again. Temperatures were in the 50's and 60's and very muggy and humid. Precipitation records were set all over the area for this time of year and there was a flood watch for the Skokomish Valley on Sunday which was really odd.

Mason: A week of rain was both good and bad for producers. For those who got their hay up before Monday, pastures were already responding to the unexpected (and uncommon) July precipitation. However, there were a few producers who had cut hay, but did not get it baled before the rain started. Grazers who have been rotating animals and harrowing fields were seeing unusual pasture grass growth for July as manure was incorporated into the soil profile. Pastured poultry producers were especially pleased with the conditions of pastures already grazed by their birds. Crop producers welcomed a week without irrigation and most crops were looking very lush. However, berries that did not get picked were starting to mold on their canes. No disease issues have surfaced yet, but time will tell for producers growing crops like tomatoes outside. The high humidity was also causing some issues for producers who were harvesting garlic and attempting to dry/cure it for fall storage.

Pacific: Rainy weather limited field activities, but provided much needed soil moisture for growers. Raspberry producers completed harvest operations, and initiated pruning of second year canes. With wet conditions, irrigation of cranberry bogs was limited, but growers were concerned about future fungus disease problems. Substantial rainfall boosted soil moisture, with benefits to both pastures and field crops. Unaffected by the wet weather, shellfish growers continued late seed planting, and harvesting operations for triploid oysters.

Pierce/King: The weather was ripe for mold development on berries along with ripening fruit splitting.

Pierce/S. King: The cooler weather has been nice and the rain wonderful. It was hard to tell right now if all this rain is going to cause any crop damage. No unusual situations to report. No report of any crop damage.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Weather was rainy all week. Temperatures were variable from cooler temperatures to warm and muggy temperatures.

Snohomish/King: It was a good week for pasture growth but not for heat-loving crops. There were scattered showers most days. Raspberry and blueberry harvest continued. The wet weather caused some rot problems. Apples sizing was up and scab was a problem on unsprayed trees. Most crops were growing well. Pumpkins were in bloom.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was cooler with two to three days of rain. Temperatures were in the 70's, and it has been humid. With hay down in the field some had gotten wet.

Thurston: Copious amounts of rainfall in the latter part of the week found agricultural producers turning off irrigation systems as the soil profile was thoroughly wet through the entire root depth of most herbaceous plants. The unseasonably wet conditions, combined with warm temperatures resulted in rapid plant growth. Turfgrass growers were jubilant to be saving the cost of irrigating fields. Blueberry growers on the other hand, reported the rain made for less than ideal harvest conditions. Besides the challenge of machine picking wet berries for the wholesale market, U-pick clientele were reluctant to pick berries on wet bushes. Dairy producers took advantage of

the wet conditions to continue applying liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Grand fir and Norway spruce. The rain arrived just in time to prevent drought damage to spring planted tree seedlings on both Christmas tree farms and reforestation areas. Home gardeners were kept busy weeding, harvesting early season vegetables, and harvesting both blueberries and raspberries. Agricultural producers were saying it is difficult to recall such a wet July in recent decades.

Whatcom: It was cooler this week with temps in the high 60's to low 70's. The area received some much needed rain. Raspberry growers were having problems getting the berries off the bush due to the rainy conditions. Some of the earlier planted corn had tasseled.

Central

Benton: Intermittent rains degraded some third cut alfalfa and slowed harvest of wheat.

Douglas/Chelan: Rain was received, postponing the beginning of winter wheat harvest. Rain may have affected some cherry producers. Extent of damage was unknown. Harvest of other soft fruits continued.

Franklin: A hot beginning of the week followed by several days of cooler weather at the end of the week. One thunderstorm with heavy lightning sparked several area fires and heavy, short lived rain rolled through the county. No crop damage was reported. Overall it was a good growing week.

Grant: Dryland wheat harvest began. Yields were expected to be above average. Second cutting alfalfa was about finished up. Second cutting timothy will begin soon. Cherry harvest was winding down. Bean cultivating was underway.

Kittitas: Local showers and some cooler days reduced the fire danger somewhat, but rangeland pastures were essentially done growing for the year. It has been an exceptionally good year for knapweeds, apparently due to periodic summer showers and the late spring. The rangelands were dry enough even some sagebrush leaves were curling.

Okanogan: Nice rain shower came through last week. Between 0.5 to 1.0 inches was received in places. Second cutting has begun.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 9 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Weather stayed dry, but cooled a bit from previous week. Apple thinning continued. Bartlett pear producers were weeding, mowing and moving bins into orchards. Fruit was sizing up nicely and Red Delicious apples were coloring up.

Eastern

Adams: Early reports on winter wheat have been average to a little above average on yields with good test weight. Grain protein in hard red winter wheat has been reported as low by a few growers.

Asotin: Dry conditions continued to dominate the area. Harvest continued in the middle elevations. Several wildfires were burning in the area and landowners were on the alert.

Asotin/Garfield: Rain showers during the middle of the week provided some relief from the dry weather. The rain came with thunder storms that sparked several fires in the two counties. Harvest was stopped by the rain, but resumed by the weekend. Yield reports from producers indicated an average to below average crop in Garfield County. However, producers in Asotin County report yields that were well below average.

Ferry: Cherry harvest was near completion with only a small percentage of late cherries to pick. Harvest of other soft fruit continued.

Ferry (2nd Report): Welcomed cooler temperatures and some rain last week helped bring a 16,000 acre fire west of us under control. It also helped dampen vegetation, but did not replenish the much needed ground moisture.

Garfield: Harvest was delayed early in the week by thunder storms. Wheat was good on good land and poor on poor land according to a local farmer. Cattle will remain in the mountains until October.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest started in the very southwest corner of the county and will progress throughout the next week.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Rain was received one day last week which briefly delayed harvest for some producers. More producers will begin harvest with each upcoming week.

Pend Oreille: Temperature high was 94 degrees; the low was 42 degrees with precipitation received at .3 inches. Winds continued to dry field after the rain. The area saw its first alfalfa cutting. Hay fields were poor at best unless irrigated. Most farmers that have livestock and sell additional hay were advising that no hay will be sold by them. Livestock have been pastured in uncut hay fields due to poor growth. Hay that should be waist high was only ankle high and not enough to cut and bail.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The temperatures were very warm temperatures with some cooling due to thunderstorms. Some areas in the county picked up almost a half inch of needed rain but other parts got nothing. All the small grains really turned with winter wheat looking like it will harvest in about 2 weeks. Spring grain surprisingly has still got some green color. Hay demand was very strong with a short crop. Bluegrass straw was almost all sold with prices up in the \$60 per ton range. Cherries continued to be picked as well as raspberries up on green bluff. Pend Oreille County was dry. Crop and pasture were reported at 1/3 of normal with herd liquidations anticipated.

Stevens: The area received a nice rain early last week which helped control forest fires and clear the smoke filled air. Hay producers continued working on second cutting. High temperatures for the week were in the mid-nineties.

Stevens (2nd Report): First crop hay was complete. Winter wheat was nearing harvest stage and spring grains were developing well. Measurable rain late in the week eased fire danger but temperatures were back in the mid to upper 90's.

Walla Walla: Harvest was going well; reports so far were "average crop." Some reports of pinched wheat, but have not really heard too much yet. Weather conditions were favorable. There were some significant lightning events but fortunately quick heavy showers accompanied the lightning so, so far no serious wildfires.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Grain harvest was in full swing starting from the North and West. Yield quality was all over the board. Test weights were mostly o.k. and red wheat protein looked good.

Whitman: Harvest as underway in the western part of the county and along the Snake River canyon breaks. Rain brought welcomed relief from the extreme heat of July. Colfax received .3 inches with areas out west with higher totals of .4 inches. Crops looked good and have not dropped much in the condition rating from the 100 degree heat. However, harvest will be the true indicator as to how the heat has impacted yield and test weight.

Weekly Weather Statistics
July 23, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT			
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS	
WEST																
Bellingham Intl	55	77	64	+3	103	+16	34	+13	0.77	+0.49	5	35.68	+1.27	104	170	
Everett	57	76	64	+1	100	+9	30	+8	1.27	+1.00	5	32.96	-1.80	95	166	
Hoquiam	57	72	65	+5	105	+28	35	+21	2.65	+2.37	6	71.19	+5.10	108	189	
Kelso	55	79	66	+3	117	+19	47	+19	0.62	+0.42	4	39.81	-4.99	89	138	
Olympia	53	80	65	+2	103	+12	33	+8	1.83	+1.69	6	56.73	+7.65	116	167	
Seattle-Tacoma	57	81	66	+0	112	+3	42	+1	1.40	+1.26	6	44.63	+8.77	124	160	
Shelton	56	78	64	-2	98	-7	28	-8	2.91	+2.70	6	77.20	+13.78	122	173	
Tacoma WA AP	56	77	65	+0	107	+2	37	+2	1.05	+0.90	6	40.43	+1.70	104	159	
Vancouver WA	59	81	69	+5	137	+32	67	+32	0.42	+0.28	3	37.79	-2.07	95	141	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	52	93	73	+5	162	+31	92	+31	0.00	-0.02	0	8.05	-0.41	95	80	
Omak AP	52	93	73	+6	166	+40	96	+40	0.69	+0.55	2	10.40	-3.38	75	62	
Stampede Pass	47	79	59	+4	66	+24	19	+12	0.49	+0.21	6	97.51	+18.84	124	182	
Wenatchee	59	89	74	+0	169	+1	99	+1	0.00	+0.00	0	8.56	+0.77	110	50	
Yakima AP	51	93	72	+2	157	+16	87	+17	0.00	+0.00	0	6.92	-0.60	92	61	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	53	97	75	+9	179	+60	109	+60	0.44	+0.29	3	14.46	-5.40	73	104	
Deer Park	50	92	71	+2	147	+8	77	+8	0.35	+0.16	1	17.78	+0.22	101	112	
Republic	46	90	68	+5	131	+33	61	+26	0.21	+0.00	3	13.65	-0.70	95	78	
Spokane AP	58	91	73	+4	163	+27	93	+27	0.34	+0.20	1	14.64	-0.95	94	100	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	53	92	74	-2	172	-7	102	-6	0.05	-0.02	1	7.27	+0.40	106	67	
Moses Lake	56	93	74	-3	169	-10	99	-9	0.12	+0.05	1	6.35	-0.52	92	64	
Quincy	53	92	73	+3	163	+14	93	+15	0.13	+0.12	2	7.80	+0.44	106	51	
Ritzville	60	95	75	+6	178	+39	108	+39	0.23	+0.16	1	10.47	-0.32	97	83	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	62	98	78	-1	200	+3	130	+3	0.03	+0.03	1	4.66	-1.42	77	49	
Pasco	59	98	77	+2	187	+12	117	+12	0.00	+0.00	0	7.28	+0.26	104	70	
Pullman	47	91	68	+3	131	+20	61	+19	0.22	+0.08	2	16.44	-3.56	82	105	
Walla Walla Rgn	60	95	76	+1	185	+3	115	+3	0.28	+0.20	1	17.63	-0.87	95	91	
Whitman Mission	55	95	73	+3	163	+13	93	+14	0.30	+0.23	2	13.30	+0.33	103	99	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	60	97	79	+5	203	+29	133	+28	0.04	-0.10	2	8.67	-2.80	76	84	

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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